



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

infant, on the other hand, what he needs, so far as the thing itself is concerned without regard to what property he has or what ability he may have to pay for it, is a "necessary." *Burghart v. Hall* (1839) 4 M. & W. 727. What is said in §20 relative to the marriage of slaves seems to be wholly inadequate as an exposition of the law of the subject. (compare *Middleton v. Middleton* (1906) 221 Ill. 623). In §76 the learned author says that "tenancies by entireties are generally held not to be affected by the statutes abolishing survivorship among joint tenants and creating separate estates." This statement though, perhaps, literally correct, fails to indicate the important fact that the statutes giving married women their separate estates, much more frequently than the statutes relating to joint tenancy, have the effect of abolishing or modifying the common law rule regarding the creation of estate by entireties. *Lux v. Hoff* (1868) 47 Ill. 425; *Cooper v. Cooper* (1875) 76 Ill. 57; *Mittel v. Karl* (1890) 133 Ill. 65; *Walthal v. Goree* (1860) 36 Ala. 728.

If Professor Long's book is designed for a text book to be used by his particular students, and performs no other function, it is hardly a subject for the reviewer. Every teacher is at liberty to adapt his material in his own way for his own class. We see nothing that Professor Long has done in this direction which would interest the teachers of law in general, except as they might desire to find a book which would save them the trouble of putting together for their classes material equally inadequate.

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE OLD WORLD. By Dr. Preissig. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. pp. ix, 719.

This title is very misleading; a far more accurate idea of the contents of the book may be gathered from the title page where the full title appears as "Notes on the History and Political Institutions of the Old World;" and the general character of the work has been accurately set forth by the author in his preface where he says, "No claim of originality is made for the contents of the following pages. They have grown out of a set of student's notes, compiled in preparation for an examination, and for this reason, and because of some technical difficulties, it has not been found possible to insert references."

"The peculiar value of this book," to quote from what appears to be the publishers' note, on the paper cover, "lies in the fact that it offers to students in a single volume an epitome of the two subjects named in the title, and makes this information accessible in a convenient and inexpensive form. The course of the histories of the various Old World countries and the development of their political institutions are placed side by side and followed from ancient times to the end of the nineteenth century. Special attention is given to the origins of the political organizations of European States."

It may well happen that occasions may arise which justify the publication of works wholly lacking in originality, but compilations of such a character demand at least the highest degree of accuracy, and excellence of style as well as arrangement of the subject matter, if they hope to lay claim to any merit; it may also happen that a student's notes, gathered in preparation for an examination, when enlarged and expanded, may

be of value to others beside the individual concerned, but in the present instance it would seem that the fact of being in possession of voluminous notes on subjects of history and political science, independent of any considerations of their value, was the chief reason for the appearance of this book. The combination of history and political institutions sounds attractive, for every one recognizes how inseparably they are connected, but any one who goes to Dr. Preissig's work with the expectation of finding this connection set forth will be disappointed; it is, as its full title proclaims, notes and nothing else—a succession of paragraphs, each with its appropriate heading, in most cases without any attempt at setting forth more than the most elementary historical facts that a school-boy could find in his text books on history and government; even in the matter of the selection of his material, the author has not displayed remarkable judgment or accuracy.

The superficiality, at least of the first part of the work, may be seen in the fact that the history, literature, government and religion of China are dealt with in the brief space of ten pages and that China, Egypt, Chaldea, Assyria and Babylonia, the Hebrews, the Phœnicians and the Persians, together with a chapter on the earliest forms of government, are dismissed with less than a hundred pages; on the other hand more than one-third of the entire book is devoted to Greece and Rome, in which the reader is treated to a curious mixture of history and mythology, with encyclopædic bits of information regarding the art, architecture, language, literature, law, philosophy, religion and customs of the two countries, all put together without logical connection or sequence; in fact the work seems to be one of those purposeless books sometimes met with, written without a conception, much less a grasp of modern methods of historical treatment of the subject of political institutions. To add insult to injury the reader is treated to frequent repetitions of valueless historical matter, (*e.g.*, p. 237 ff. & 591-596) when every word ought to count if the attempt be made to cover the history and political institutions of the Old World in a single volume.

Inaccuracies are not wanting; for example, speaking of Philip II of Macedon (p. 154) the author says: "In his youth he had been a hostage for some years at Thebes, and learned valuable military lessons from that famous general and statesman." Who the general was the reader is left to surmise. Again (p. 165) we are told "The statue of Zeus (by Phidias) was sixty feet high. It existed for eight hundred years and was destroyed by fire in the fifth century B. C.," despite the fact that on p. 143 we have been told that Phidias was one of the famous men of the age of Pericles and the years 459 to 431 B. C. have been assigned for that period; again (p. 549) "In 1714 Queen Anne died, leaving no heirs, and the crown fell to the eldest son of Sophia of Hanover, George, who was a grandchild of James I;" (p. 585) "—and, finally, Emperor Francis was forced to abdicate his title of Roman Emperor, which act ended the Holy Roman Empire, after an existence of over eight hundred years." Why not over a thousand? (p. 612) "Bosnia and Herzegovina were given to Austria-Hungary." Such an incomplete statement of what was really done with these two districts at the Berlin Conference of 1878 reflects discredit even upon the merest notes. The last half of

the book, dealing with mediæval and modern history and institutions, is a distinct improvement over the first half, and yet here we find the same preponderance of all other kinds of history over institutional, until the most recent time is reached. The analyses of the present governmental arrangements in Europe are good but exceedingly brief, and it would seem that the space at the author's disposal could have been much more advantageously employed in elaborating this part of his work than in detailing so many events in history which have no bearing whatever upon present political institutions. In conclusion there is no scientific principle underlying the construction of the work, for there is no logical connection between oriental and modern civilizations, no process of transformation or development that can be traced through modern back to ancient oriental political institutions, and any collection of facts embracing them both, as in the present case, can have only encyclopædic interest for the general reader or student. The numerous maps are a commendable feature.

#### REVIEWS TO FOLLOW:

STUDIES IN THE CIVIL LAW. By W. W. Howe. Second Edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1905. pp. xiii, 391.

THE LAW OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS. By James Schouler. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1905. pp. xxxix, 421.

A MANUAL RELATING TO SPECIAL VERDICTS AND SPECIAL FINDINGS BY JURIES. By G. B. Clemenson. St. Paul: West Pub. Co. 1905. pp. lxi, 350.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF CONTRACTS. By J. D. Lawson. Second Edition. St. Louis: The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co. 1905. pp. xxvi, 688.

JURISPRUDENCE LAW AND ETHICS. By E. B. Kinkead. New York: The Banks Law Pub. Co. 1905. pp. vii, 381.

WILLS ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, WITH AMERICAN NOTES. By G. E. Beers and A. T. Corbin. Boston: The Boston Book Co. 1905. pp. xiii, 448.

A TREATISE ON EQUITABLE REMEDIES. By J. N. Pomeroy, Jr. Two Volumes. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co. 1905. pp. Vol. I, xxx, 1-952; Vol. II, xix, 953-1875.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. By Howard S. Abbott. 1905. pp. Vol. I, xix, 1-965; Vol. II, xvi, 967-1979.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW IN ENGLAND. By E. W. Ridges. London: Stevens & Sons. 1905. pp. xxxii, 459.

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES. By J. Hampden Dougherty. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. pp. iv, 425.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK. By C. Z. Lincoln. Rochester: The Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing Co. 1906. pp. Vol. I, xxx, 756; Vol. II, xvii, 725; Vol. III, xviii, 757; Vol. IV, xxvi, 800; Vol. V, 551.

LIMITATIONS OF THE TAXING POWER. By James M. Gray. San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Co. 1906. pp. lx, 1316.